

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to Fig. 5. The changes to Fig. 5 are discussed in the "Remarks" section of this paper.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 7, and 17-27 are pending. Claims 2-4, 6, and 8-16 have been canceled. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The applicant is grateful to examiner Kim for the interview of 8 April 2005. The interview summary accurately reflects the substance of the interview. That is, the applicant proposed amending claim 1 to emphasize the integration of the filter with the first body part of the nozzle body. However, the examiner stated that claiming separate parts as being integral would not render the claims allowable when the separate parts are known in the prior art. This amendment includes the feature of the integration of the filter and the first body part and presents an argument as to why this feature would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art. Further, additional distinctions between the claims and the prior art are presented.

Figure 5 has been amended to add a rectangle near the nozzles. The rectangle diagrammatically represents a windshield. The windshield is now recited in claim 1. Also, reference number 11 has been added to designate the windshield. These changes are to comply with Rule 83(a), which requires features in the claims to appear in the drawings. The specification has been amended accordingly to include reference number 11. This change does not involve new matter, since the windshield was described on page 6 (lines 7-9) of the original specification.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 10, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by DeWitt *et al.* (DeWitt). Further, claims 1, 3-5, 7, 10, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeWitt. Claims 3, 4, and 10 have been canceled and thus will

not be discussed. As for claims 1, 5, 7, 17 and 18, the applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

With respect to claim 1, in the section entitled "Response to Arguments" of the Office Action dated March 1, 2005, it is said that "element 34 of Dewitt can be considered a washer nozzle because it has a discharge opening which discharges fluid into hose 74 and also meets the structural limitations as set forth in the claims." Claim 1 now recites that the first body part includes the at least one jet opening, from which the washer fluid is jetted out of the nozzle body against the windshield. The element 34 of Dewitt does not have a jet opening from which the washer fluid is jetted out of the nozzle body against the windshield, as recited in claim 1. Thus, Dewitt fails to disclose the limitations of claim 1.

Furthermore, in the section entitled "Response to Arguments" of the Office Action dated March 1, 2004, it is said that "even if the claims require the nozzle to be a terminal element, making the housing 72, hose 74 and washer means 32 in one piece would make Dewitt's valve 34 a terminal element, i.e., a nozzle." Claim 1 now recites that the first body part and the second body part are connected together. Claim 1 further recites that the first body part is molded from a resin material and includes an inlet opening from which washer fluid is inputted into the nozzle body. Claim 1 also recites that the second body part is molded from a resin material separately from the first body part and includes at least one jet opening from which the washer fluid is jetted out of the nozzle body against the windshield.

The number of body parts of the nozzle body in claim 1 is two (the first body part and the second body part). In contrast, in Dewitt, the number of body parts of the nozzle body is more than two (the body parts 32, 36, 68, 72, 74). Thus, the number of required components of the washer nozzle of claim 1 is smaller than that of Dewitt. Therefore, the washer nozzle of claim 1

advantageously enables a reduction in the number of assembling steps and a reduction in the manufacturing costs. Such a reduction in the number of components cannot be easily made, and the claimed subject matter is not suggested or shown by the DeWitt patent. Thus, claim 1 should be patentable.

Claim 1 further recites that the filter is formed integrally with the first body part of the nozzle body and that the check valve is opposed to the filter. In Dewitt, although the cross section of the washer 32 is indicated by a resin hatching in FIG. 6, the cross section of the first body part 72 is indicated by a metal hatching in FIG. 3. Therefore, the first body part 72 is made of metal, and the filter 76 is formed separately from the first body part 72. Thus, the Dewitt patent fails to show that the first body part 72 is made of resin material.

Furthermore, when the first body part is made of metal, it is not easy to form a metal filter integrally with the metal first body part. In contrast, in the nozzle of claim 1, the filter is formed integrally with the first body part of the nozzle body, which is made of resin material (Note the resin hatching of the first body part in FIG. 6 of the present application). Since the filter is formed integrally with the first body part of the nozzle body, the number of components and the number of assembling steps is reduced. Furthermore, in Dewitt, the valve 40, 58 is not opposed to the filter 76. Thus, Dewitt further fails to show or suggest the limitations of claim 1. In view of these points, the applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

New claim 19 depends on claim 1 and is considered to be patentable at least for the reasons given above with respect to claim 1.

New claim 20 recites that the nozzle body includes a first body part and a second body part, which are formed separately and are connected together. New claim 20 further recites that the second body part includes at least one jet opening from which the washer fluid is jetted out of

the nozzle body against the windshield. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, these limitations are not shown or suggested by the prior art and result in a reduction in the number of required components in comparison to the prior art.

Claim 20 further recites that the check valve is opposed to the filter. In Dewitt, as discussed above with respect to claim 1, the valve 40, 58 is not opposed to the filter 76. Thus, the Dewitt patent further fails to disclose or suggest this limitation.

Claim 20 further recites that the fluid passage includes an enlarged passage section, which is located in the first body part at a position adjacent to the filter on an upstream side of the filter. The enlarged passage section has a cross sectional area greater than that of an adjacent upstream portion of the fluid passage. The velocity of the washer fluid is reduced in the enlarged passage section due to its larger cross sectional area. The reduction in the velocity of the washer fluid advantageously limits clogging of the filter caused by, for example, debris contained in the washer fluid. In view of these points, claim 20 is considered to be patentable over Dewitt.

New claim 21 recites that the check valve is arranged on the downstream side of the filter in the corresponding portion of the fluid passage of the nozzle body and is displaceable relative to the valve seat in an axial direction of the corresponding portion of the fluid passage. New claim 21 further recites a resilient element that urges the check valve against the valve seat in the axial direction toward the filter. The Dewitt patent fails to show or suggest the limitations of claim 21. More specifically, as clearly indicated in FIG. 3 of the Dewitt patent, the valve 40, 58 is displaceable in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of the corresponding portion of the fluid passage. Thus, the profile of the corresponding portion of the washer nozzle where the valve 40, 58 is provided is disadvantageously increased in the Dewitt patent in comparison to that of the washer nozzle of claim 21. Thus, claim 21 should be patentable.

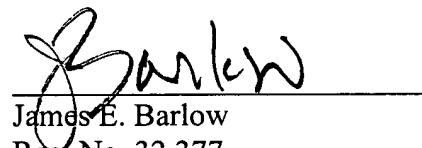
Claim 22 recites that the check valve is coaxial with respect to the filter. This arrangement can further limit the increase in the profile of the corresponding portion of the washer nozzle. In Dewitt, the check valve is not coaxial with respect to the filter, causing the increase in the profile of the corresponding portion of the washer nozzle. Thus, claim 22 should be patentable.

Claims 23-27 are dependent on claim 21 and are thus considered to be patentable at least for the reasons given above.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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